

Jesus and the disciples left the upper room on that last fateful night. We have seen how they probably went from there to the Temple. It was the house of prayer for all nations, and was open all night that night for the Passover. Our passage today is the beginning of Jesus' prayer. He began the prayer by praying for Himself. That isn't the pattern that I would encourage people to use, but when you understand what was on His heart, you'll see why He began that way and why it was appropriate.

It has been said that God's ear is most attuned to the prayer of desperation. (Psalm 34:17) Some have even suggested that God does not pay attention to prayers that are not prayed in earnest. It isn't an issue of wanting you to give it all you've got, though we should always give God our very best. It is an issue of praying from our heart and not just ritualism or meaningless repetition. (Matthew 6:7) If you don't really care that much and are just doing your duty, why should God hear your prayer? (Psalm 119:120) To come before the Lord of all, our Creator and Redeemer, should be the most whole hearted, expectant, exciting time of your day. If prayer is not that to you, it's time to look at it differently.

To Jesus, prayer was talking with His Father. This night and the next day would be some of the most intense time of prayer in His earthly life. We respond to trials with increased fervency and focus in prayer. The prayer of Jesus in John 17 has been called the Holy of Holies of Scripture. "Oliver Cromwell's chaplain, Thomas Manton, preached forty-five sermons on it." — Preaching the Word I'll only be doing three, but we do want to take it slowly and try to take it all in.

Jesus had just told the disciples of His eminent departure, of the coming of the Spirit, and His victory over the world. Then He began this prayer. ¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. The Jewish posture of prayer was standing upright with hands lifted to heaven and with the head covered. (1Timothy 4:8)

Jesus knew the time had come. He was referring to the time of being handed over to the Romans to be beaten and crucified. He was completely aware of what lay ahead of Him. (Luke 18:32-33) This was an epoch moment in history upon which the future of mankind hinged. Jesus began His prayer by acknowledging that He understood the importance of the moment. Though we will never be faced with anything remotely as influential as this moment in Jesus' life, we do face moments of great importance for us. How we pray and react to the circumstances we face will affect many lives. We can begin our prayer by acknowledging the importance of the specific issues at hand.

Commented [notes1]: 17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
Psalms 34:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
Matt 6:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 120 My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.
Psalms 119:120 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: 8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.
1 Tim 2:8 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him.
33 On the third day he will rise again."
Luke 18:32-33 (NIV)

Last week we saw that the issues we face are part of a great cosmic war. We see the lures go by that would drag us to hell, and the great lure of love that would bring us into eternal communion with God. When you pray, recognize the seriousness of the battle we are in and its affect on that moment in your life.

Do you find it strange that Jesus would ask the Father to glorify Him? If I started off the prayer before the service by praying, "Glorify me!" I think you'd probably think I was an egomaniac. The Old Testament declares that God will not give His glory to another. (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11) So why would Jesus begin praying like this? It can only be because they are one. (John 10:30) If Jesus is glorified, the Father is glorified. (John 1:18) He is not making a selfish request. Jesus is asking for glory in order that He may glorify the Father.

The world's idea of glory and the heavenly view of glory are quite different. The word can have as common a meaning as to honor or magnify. Of course the word "magnify" has two meanings. When the world honors someone, when they are magnified (exalted) they come under the magnifying glass and that usually brings to light the person's flaws. When a politician is exalted, the opposition will do nothing but hunt for flaws, real or imagined, to discredit the person. But when Jesus is magnified what do we see? We see perfection. We see the heart of God manifest. We see love beyond our comprehension. To glorify can mean to reveal the beautiful attributes hidden within. That is the use in Jesus' prayer.

Jesus set aside His glory to become a man. (Philippians 2:6-7) Now Jesus is simply asking that the attributes that are within be manifest to mankind. That is about to happen, but not in the way we would think. If we asked to be glorified, man would think of adding titles to our name, of demanding respect wherever we went, or the recognition of others as being someone special. When Jesus asks to be glorified He is talking about the cross. Does that shock you? How is that glorious? How can that humiliating torture be glorious? The cross of Jesus is the visible manifestation of God's heart of love for you. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. (John 3:16) The picture of perfect love, grace, and justice that we see in the cross of Jesus brings glory to the Son and in doing so brings glory to the Father. Jesus loved us so much that He went to that extent to redeem us. (Romans 5:8) The Father was willing to have His heart broken to the extent of seeing the One He loves face hell for you. That is glorious!

The path to glory is the same for all of us. I'm not speaking of the world's kind of honor, but of a demonstration of God's glorious heart. Taking up your cross, dying daily, and following Jesus is glorious. (Luke 9:23) You certainly won't have the world's honor, but you will be demonstrating the heart of God. (2Thessalonians 2:13-14) The Scriptures tell us you actually share in the glory of Jesus when you do that. When you suffer for the sake of Christ, you, as members of the body of Christ, are showing the world the love of God. (Romans

Commented [notes6]: 8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.
Isaiah 42:8 (NIV)

Commented [notes7]: 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.
Isaiah 48:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes8]: 30 I and the Father are one."
John 10:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes9]: 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.
John 1:18 (NIV)

Commented [notes10]: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
Phil 2:6-7 (NIV)

Commented [notes11]: 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (NIV)

Commented [notes12]: 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8 (NIV)

Commented [notes13]: 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes14]: 13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.
14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thess 2:13-14 (NIV)

8:17) In that sense, you too can pray, Father glorify me that I may bring glory to You. We are actually asking for God to help us take up our cross daily and follow Him. That is difficult in our land of luxury. This Memorial weekend, while we are enjoying our time off, more people will die as Christian martyrs than the entire population of Sedona! Will we die daily to glorify God?

Commented [notes15]: 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
Romans 8:17 (NIV)

Jesus went on to pray, ² *For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.* Jesus is recognizing a new era has arrived. The disciples who were listening to the prayer would have understood that Jesus was speaking of two of the important terms in the passage about the Son of Man. ¹³ *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.* Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV) Did you notice the authority and glory that Jesus just prayed about? By faith He had already received the authority for He was set to fulfill everything the Father called Him to do. He was about to receive the glory. A new age had arrived.

The authority given to Jesus was to give eternal life to all that the Father had given Him. It was authority to claim back from Satan those who would put their trust in Jesus. It was an authority He made possible because of taking our place on the cross, dying in our place, receiving the justice that was due us.

After the resurrection He will remind the disciples of the authority given Him when He commands them and us to take the message of the Gospel into all the world. (Matthew 28:18) He received authority because of His willingness to submit to His Father even to death on the cross. (Philippians 2:8-9) With that authority He tells us to submit to God and in doing so we too have an authority that comes from God to lead people to eternal life. It's not that ultimate authority that Jesus has, but it is an authority in the Spirit to speak the words of God, to declare the Gospel, to tell people the answer to their need. We call people to repentance and to the cross with the same authority that called us.

Commented [notes16]: 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
Matt 28:18 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
Phil 2:8-9 (NIV)

³ *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* Here again Jesus' words indicated to the disciples that a new age was dawning. Jesus prayer here would have reminded them of a well known text from Jeremiah. ³⁴ *No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."* Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV)

Eternal life is not just living forever for life is more than breath. Nor is knowing God merely an intellectual attainment. Eternal life and knowing God go hand in hand. Listen to this quote from the non-canonical book, the Wisdom of Solomon 15:3 " *For to know you is complete righteousness, and to know your power is the root of immortality.*

The Hebrew culture used the phrase "to know" to describe the intimacy of a married couple. (Genesis 4:1) This intimacy of the heart is what Jesus is referring to. An intimate relationship of love with God is eternal life. It is to really live. Jesus was praying for us to have the relationship that He had as a man with God. Jesus knew He possessed eternal life because He lived in an intimate relationship with God. That is assurance. Do you have that assurance? He wants you to have it, but remember that it involves relationship and relationship is built on spending time together, living life together. (Isaiah 30:21)

Jesus prayed that we would know the only true God. The Apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians about this. They lived in a city of many gods. He wrote, ⁵ *For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"),* ⁶ *yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.* 1Corinthians 8:5-6 (NIV) This declaration of only one true God was rightly put into the confessions of our faith. We see it throughout Scripture. (1Thessalonians 1:9; 1Timothy 1:17)

This declaration of Jesus is under attack today more than ever. Our culture demands that we be politically correct and acknowledge that all gods are equal. We have lost a number of attendees because we simply cannot stay faithful to the words of Scripture and do that. We can't even be consistent with this prayer of Jesus and say that. There is only one true God. He is gracious and invites all in, but He is not the same as Allah or Buddha or Krishna or the Universe. He alone is God! There are surely individuals in those cultures and religions that look to God's mercy but that mercy is made possible for them through Jesus Christ, God's provision for sin. (John 14:6)

Some point to this verse and declare that this was made up by John because Jesus referred to Himself in the third person, Jesus Christ. Actually, a study of literature from the time shows that this was common in that age. It is particularly appropriate here because Jesus is speaking of eternal life and the name signifies all that one is. Jesus Christ means the salvation of JHWH, the anointed one. "There is only one name given under heaven whereby we must be saved," according the Apostle Peter. (Acts 4:12) In fact, it would almost be strange if Jesus did not insert His name there.

Commented [notes18]: 1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. Gen 4:1 (KJV)

Commented [notes19]: 21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

Commented [notes20]: 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 1 Thess 1:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes21]: 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim 1:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes22]: 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (NIV)

⁴ *I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.* We return to the concept of glory. Jesus prayed to be glorified so He could bring glory to the Father. We saw how that pointed to the cross, the ultimate display of glory. Here He mentions one way He had brought glory to the Father up to that point, by completing the work He was assigned to do. Ultimately that work is the cross, but to this point it was daily obedience to the Father. He said what the Father told Him to say. He did what the Father instructed Him to do. (John 8:28) That showed the heart of God, which brings glory to God. Jesus was faithful in the least (His whole earthly life), and now He was about to be faithful in much (His death). (Luke 16:10)

We also bring glory to God by completing the work He gives us to do. We all have a calling. It's not just missionaries and preachers that are called. (Romans 8:29) There is not a believer that does not have some kind of calling from God. Some think their calling is insignificant, but every calling brings glory to God and that is never insignificant. (1Corinthians 12:22-24) In fact, some of the hidden callings that require faithfulness and don't receive any recognition are some of the most glorious. Remember God's word to those entering the kingdom, "Well done good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21) God doesn't say, "Well done servant with the most visibility or notoriety," for God isn't impressed by those things. He is looking for faithfulness. (Hebrews 3:2) That is what brings Him glory.

⁵ *And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.* Before the world began, Jesus' glory was manifest. (Proverbs 8:23,30) There were no creatures to witness it. There was none but the Holy Trinity that could gaze upon it. Jesus was throughout eternity past all glorious. Then the Father called the Son to set it aside that resplendent glory and live as a man. He willingly did so, so that He could share His glory with us. (Hebrews 2:10) He made His glory manifest again through obedience that led to the cross. Then He invited us to do the same through the power of His Spirit. (Luke 9:23) We see His glory manifest on the cross and the resurrection but we will one day also behold that same glory that the Apostle John saw in the Revelation, the resplendent glory of Jesus at the right hand of God. (1John 3:2)

Now, Jesus asks us to bring glory to God by finishing the work He gives us to do. He asks us to enter into and share His glory. (2Thessalonians 2:14) That is something I can't really fathom. Knowing the sinful creatures that we are, I can say it is only possible because of Jesus' sacrifice and amazing grace. It is only possible through love that is greater than I can comprehend. Day by day we come to know Him, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, and we taste eternal life. ¹⁸ *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* 2Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) That's glorious!

Commented [notes24]: 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. John 8:28 (NIV)

Commented [notes25]: 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes26]: 29 For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29 (NIV)

Commented [notes27]: 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ... [1]

Commented [notes28]: 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ... [2]

Commented [notes29]: 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Heb 3:2 (NIV)

Commented [notes30]: 23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. Prov 8:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes31]: 30 Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, Prov 8:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes32]: 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ... [3]

Commented [notes33]: 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes34]: 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ... [4]

Commented [notes35]: 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess 2:14 (NIV)

Page 5: [1] Commented [notes27] Paul Wallace

22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that
are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,
24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of
the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,
1 Cor 12:22-24 (NIV)

Page 5: [2] Commented [notes28] Paul Wallace

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'
Matt 25:21 (NIV)

Page 5: [3] Commented [notes32] Paul Wallace

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything
exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.
Heb 2:10 (NIV)

Page 5: [4] Commented [notes34] Paul Wallace

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.
But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:2 (NIV)